

# Army and Navy Chronicle,

## AND SCIENTIFIC REPOSITORY.

Wm. Q. Force, Editor and Proprietor.—\$5 per annum.—Office corner of 10th & D streets.

VOL. I.]

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1843.

[No. 8.]

### Congressional Documents.

#### REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF  
MEDICINE AND SURGERY,

December 1, 1842.

SIR: In obedience to your instructions of the 28th of October, the undersigned has the honor to submit the following preamble and estimates for the medical department of the navy:

The preamble is deemed absolutely essential for a true understanding of the real condition of that part of the Navy Department which comes under the direction of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. The developments it contains are neither agreeable, nor, perhaps, expected. Yet it is right that Congress should be in possession of the facts showing the awkward condition of the Medical Department in relation to its fiscal concerns. It is also just to yourself to show how much *reform* was needed in this branch of the service. It is but fair to the incumbent of this bureau that the heavy demands existing on an appropriation which, for a series of years, seems to have been either insufficiently asked, or inadequately granted, in reference to the expenses that appropriation was designed to liquidate, should be explained. That the annual appropriations for the outlays of the Medical Department have not been, in some years anterior to that just passed, in parity with the current expenses of those years, the undersigned sees no occasion to take upon himself to assert. But that, in the series of years alluded to, the aggregate appropriations have not only not been commensurate with the aggregate outlay, he not only takes upon himself to say, but, also, that the deficit in the former, to bring them on an equality with the latter, amounts to a sum which, unless provided by a specific appropriation, will press heavily for years to come on the usual medical appropriation, even by a process which would subtract a tithe of each year's grant for the gradual extinction of the present demands. It would, therefore, be equally disingenuous to assume these demands, in part, in the basis of estimates for future wants, thus vainly and uselessly, and, on the part of the undersigned, culpably, endeavoring to conceal the embarrassment they occasion, and unwise to withhold any longer from Congress the fact that, until they are wholly dissipated by specific funds, no economy can be apparent, as consecutive to the re-organization which introduced a bureau in this department, among the effects of the operations of which, economy was anticipated as an important one.

To start in this bureau, under the just expectation by Congress and by yourself, of thrift and saving, with the clog of an aggregate debt of *fifty thousand dollars*, would be idle. This is the sum, at least, which, by a gradual increment from a previously unwise method of making estimates, meets the undersigned in the fiscal part of his bureau. To dissipate the trammels of this residual sum after years of injudicious estimates, by gradually lessening it out of the annual appropriations, instead of acquainting Congress at once with the naked truth, would require

that thirteen thousand dollars should *annually, for four years*, be abstracted from the medical fund! The result is plain, supposing this course should be adopted instead of the one the undersigned proposes of *eclaircissement*: that, for four years to come, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery would *seem* to INCREASE the heretofore usual appropriation by thirteen thousand dollars annually! That neither system nor economy could be imputed as a part of such wild operations, is clear; that unmerited blame and obloquy would be heaped upon this part of the re-organization, is equally plain; that an unjust unpopularity would meet its measures at every step, is not less manifest; and, finally, that its abolition would be the probable issue, is unquestionable. With these general observations, the undersigned proceeds to the details within his knowledge on which they have been based, after the following explanatory observations:

The difficulty that meets the attempt at making the required estimates at the onset, has already been premised. Its cause, or causes rather, (for there are several,) will now be set forth.

These estimates are for the moiety of the year approaching, ending on the 30th of June next, together with superadded estimates for the whole of the fiscal year thereafter, ending on the 30th June, 1844. To arrive at these would be a simple affair; but the simplicity of it becomes, instead, a complex calculation, by the existence of claims unappealed, to the amount already mentioned, in round numbers.

When estimates were presented to Congress prior to August, 1842, for an appropriation of thirty thousand dollars to defray the current expenses of the Medical Department of the navy during the year 1842, there remained, on the day of the passage of the law granting the appropriation asked for, certain arrearages due for outlays in the Medical Department to an amount, in the aggregate, actually exceeding, very considerably, the total of that appropriation.

The whole of it was, therefore, swallowed up in less than a week after the passage of the act, although five months of the year thus seemingly provided for were *in futuro*. But this is not all. At least ten thousand dollars still remained due and unpaid. This sum (forty thousand dollars) had grown out of bills charged certainly, if not justly chargeable (which admits of doubt) to the appropriation for the Medical Department. The result is as manifest and intelligible as its sequence was natural. An appropriation for the whole of the year 1842 was extinguished in a few days to liquidate, although only adequate to do it partially, the debts of the year 1841—those of 1842 accumulating the while. The debts of 1840, with a similar retrogression, had been paid also only in part, out of the appropriation of and for 1841; those, in like manner, of 1839, out of the appropriation of 1840, and so on by retrogressive shackle for perhaps a long course of years; each anterior year's debts bringing the additional increment of the portion left unpaid from the periods of time gone by, as an *undecaying* dead horse, the price of which was to be paid, sooner or later, out of funds set apart to buy food for the living one.

All this time Congress remained ignorant of the true state of things, believing that each annual ap-

propriation was competent to its object, since it always reached the amount asked as competent for the year embraced.

Thus the undersigned has brought you, by the simple statement of a state of things which quickly reached his mind, to a thorough understanding of the confusion which would continue, unless the affair be rectified on the just and competent principles of cure. It only remains to say, that whatever information this preamble may communicate, of a novel or unexpected nature, it was all forced on him with convincing celerity by the power of *figures*, on the moment when his duty led him to investigate the fiscal concerns of his bureau, and to ponder the singular uniformity of navy agents' returns in the loaded column appropriated to "amounts overpaid." The amazement this uniformity and the large amounts of that column produced, can be better understood by you than explained by the undersigned. Sufficient ground for this will be admitted when he simply states that he had expected to see a clean and clear ledger, exhibiting the distribution of the appropriation in parcels to those agents as debits for the year current, with simple offsets against those of credits for lawful outlays of that year from the medical appropriation. Far from this simplicity of grant and expenditure was the result of his scrutiny; having found, not only the groaning columns of over-payments on account of the appropriation for "medicines, &c.," but unwarrantable intrusions on the fund, especially for the support of the naval asylum, the irregularities in the administration of which you have promptly proceeded to correct, on the moment of the disclosures which the reorganization produced.

The cause of all this is traceable, as has been stated, several years back, by the annual interlocking with each successive appropriation for any particular year the claims of some year anterior; thus leaving an apparent competent fund in a state of glaring incompetency to meet the objects it was lawfully designed to meet.

This cause of insufficiency to liquidate the annual demands, was dilated by an immoderate expenditure, from year to year, far beyond the actual need of outlay for surgeons' necessities and appliances—an immoderate expenditure, growing out of a lax and irresponsible method of making requisitions, and obtaining their approval by officers incompetent to judge of the necessity for them, either in kind or in the quantities asked for; and still further enlarged, by an unrestrained and *craft-inviting* course, in having those requisitions executed.

But these were not the only causes which impinged the strength of the appropriation. An additional one is found in the *loss* which the practised system of entire unaccountability engendered, of articles of imperishable nature, but costly price, and which had been obtained out of Congressional appropriations apposite to such expenditure.

The necessity for *replenishing* these admitted of no abatement from the fact that, having once been obtained, they *ought to have been preserved* for future and other similar use to that to which they were first applied. The fact was evident that now they were gone. This overwhelmed every other view. No accountability existing, either by law, usage, or much individual exertion on the part of those concerned, but, on the contrary, any and every essay towards instituting it having been uniformly extinguished, by a constant refusal by the usual recipients to give receipts or vouchers for delivery of articles after return cruises, it is neither surprising that losses of costly appliances ensued, nor is it strange that a continual drain was thus instituted on a specific fund destined, in part at least, to meet outlays of one year, which would last for the same purpose in the service, if well taken care of, for several consecutive years.

It is easy to perceive how these causes might quickly impoverish an appropriation, even if it had been well devised, to meet current expenses; but when it is remembered that a doubtful judgment had been shown, for years past, by those who furnished the Secretary of the Navy with the data for his estimates on the branch of the service in question; and that a policy not easily understood, or involving an unacquaintance, perhaps, with the veritable state of perpetuated claims, led to asking, or causing to be asked of Congress, an appropriation wholly insufficient, it becomes palpable that the irregularity and irresponsibility in making requisitions, and the exorbitant charges on their execution in at least one of our southern seaports, joined to the carelessness, waste, and loss produced, in the manner noticed, are causes in combination adequate to produce their full share in contriving the embarrassments now complained of and exhibited.

In truth, the appropriation, for one year, was often, if not always, virtually, though perhaps not apparently, foreclosed, for any benefit to that year's outlay, by the engulfing arrearages of the year or more previous. The real state of affairs in the medical department not being known, or, being known, not having been developed, it became next to impossible to meet *indefinite* outlays or claims by *definite* appropriations. A similar difficulty would now exist, if any estimates were predicated on the unsound policy of perpetuating the mystification which has characterized the medical outlay for years past. Under the full conviction of this, that specious and deceptive lure held out by narrowed estimates is now abandoned and anathematized. The plain truth, devoid of cloud or obscurity, is now before you, and the undersigned believes that you will better receive it than a mesh of intricacies predicated on calculations which must fall short of adequacy, if devoid of that foundation. There is nothing problematical in this policy. To disclose to you that which *figures* in the accounting books, and in the official returns of navy agents to his bureau, revealed to the undersigned, is a duty; to make that disclosure fully and fairly, is common honesty.

It may not be without utility to observe here, that whatever may be the amount granted hereafter to the medical department, its integrity will most likely not be invaded by any of the irregular causes of diminution which have been noticed. Hitherto, there not having been any restraining influence over outlays, and no practicable method of recalling the material proceeds of those outlays into the store-rooms for public property, nor any power exerted till lately, (for the evil was not known to the power, until brought to light by the reorganization,) to stay a truly ruthless host of intrusions on the medical appropriation—the inroads on which conveyed the thought to cool lookers-on, that its fastness must have been considered impregnable, and its resources exhaustless; nor, seemingly, any fear of that power; for, among other impoverishing drains, the appropriation has been made the passive, patient, enduring instrument of a whimsical prodigality—which it would be affectation to call by any other name—of a tissue of taxes, absurdly conceived, and unauthorized levied by a *se-ipse* expenditure, (for a naval charity,) the grotesque character of which is equally anomalous and queer; nor, as it would seem, any chastened appreciation of the *intent* of the appropriation—else this dwindling away of the easily-told contents of small coffers, at best, would, under the review of any rational intelligence, have quickly conveyed the self-evident truth that those coffers could no more be expected to defray such profuseness, than the recipient of a parish-bounty could be thought able to pay the rent of the almonry which gives him food, raiment, and shelter; nor, finally, above all, any *gleam* of accountability, emanating from the confused mist



surrounding the disjointed and schemeless way of furnishing the general supplies of the medical service: nothing, of all these propositions, (which, in the aggregate, make up a true *sortes* deducible from facts,) existing in the service, the conviction that kind of argument produces is logically irresistible—that heretofore it would have been the greatest hardihood to have promised, or expected, a faithful distribution of any appropriation on which drafts were irremediably inordinate; irregular, prodigal, if not senseless, and often wholly useless for any purpose, save enriching the rapacious furnishers. That this epithet is merited by some, is, unfortunately for the weak and groaning medical appropriation, but too true. To their extortionate and unconscionable charges, especially for surgical instruments, the undersigned has called your attention. They in part, but doubtless not to the extent of a tithe of the occult freebooting which for years has been in operation, under the guise of fair profit, have been brought to light by a report to Congress now in its printed documents. That report resulted from an investigating commission instituted by your immediate predecessor, with that peering scrutiny into irregularities and abuses for which he was remarkable, and which has in the same sharpness been instituted by yourself, and carried out, (from a conviction that reform could no longer be postponed, consistently with the public interests,) into a digested system of reorganization, which is hourly presenting additional facts to confirm the necessity for establishing, continuing, and expanding that reorganization. These hourly revelations are, at least in the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, absolutely amazing.

The difficulty of making, with any prospect of redemption, such a promise as has been above touched on, or realizing any such expectation as alluded to, would hitherto have been further enhanced by the practice heretofore pursued, of making good an exhausted appropriation by borrowing temporarily from another. But pay day was to come at last; the undersigned has shown you that its approach is as vicinal as the demands with which it is fraught are importunate and insusceptible of postponement. Procrastination will not amend, but mar that measure which, only, can bring the issue right. The enlightened views of Congress, once invited to this measure of fiscal appeasement, would, by the undersigned, be confided in to meet the emergency. You, doubtless, are inspired with the same confident reliance on their just sense of necessity for something to be done effectual, thus ultimately closing the door, so long and injuriously to the public credit, wide open for the ingress of irregularities, varied, mischievous, and odd. In a word, a specific appropriation to obliterate retrospective claims, would block out that door by raising an impenetrable barrier against future abuses and irregularities. That measure once accomplished, nothing of the anomalous operations which have been developed and complained of, can be interposed, (if the incumbent of this bureau does his duty,) to prevent a due regard in keeping, without intrusion, all future appropriations.

The existing scores once erased by payment, the course will be clear for economy and thrift. The goal at the end of that course can be reached in no other way. An unsettled ledger would perpetuate embarrassment, by withholding the ready money which ought to find its way into cash payments for supplies, and diverting it into the channel clogged with the obstacles of debt and discredit—it might be said, no credit at all, for the smirch it has sustained, if not indelible, is so deep as to have actually frustrated the economy which would have been the result of cash payments by the bureau. There has been no reciprocity in the borrowing complained of, but what added to the evil. In short, the medical appro-

priation having been made to bear the burden of a collapsing pressure, meager, ill-conditioned, ill-provided, as it has been, it was ever seized on in such plumpness as recent congressional action may have given it, grappled with, thrown down, filched, and picked to the bone, by voracity in the furnishers, and by the relentless tugs of the visionary and the inconsiderate. The evil exhibited is considerable and pervading, but not inextirpable. Fortunately, the remedy is at hand. Should Congress deem it right and expedient to meet the emergency by the annihilating power it possesses, that course would dissipate the mystified condition of the concerns which now come under the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Until that step be taken, all attempts at reducing the medical appropriation to the square-and-compass test will prove fallacious, deceptive, and unavailing. When taken, the appropriation may thereafter be in good understanding made, and in good faith expended.

It is now, therefore, submitted to your consideration whether it might not be well to lay these facts before the appropriating power, and ask for the requisite funds to release the accounts, in abeyance, from all prospective trammel or postponement. This would render the operations of the bureau fully perspicuous and effectually economical. It would, too, relieve its chief from floundering in future amid debts and drawbacks, which otherwise would create a *vis inertia* inimical to the object of its institution, and fatal perhaps to its existence.

This may be a fit place to suggest what the undersigned cannot but deem a modification in the future medical appropriation, imperatively called for by the principles of unity in purchases, requisitions, issues, and accountability, adopted in this bureau. The modification alluded to has reference to that distinct appropriation, heretofore recognised, for the medical disbursements for the marine corps. This separation of objects homogeneous in their nature and uses, presents an unnecessary distracting influence over the medical department of the navy; and moreover, the distinct appropriation exhibits often, an ungainly disproportion to that for the service of the navy proper. In the present year, for example, that disproportionate unsuitableness between means and the objects they are to embrace, was very striking—\$4,140 to \$30,000. When the relative numerical strength of the navy proper, and the marine corps, is glanced at, this injudicious variance in proportion will be readily perceived. There are other reasons for amalgamating the two appropriations involving the good of the service, in the generalization now aimed at in the bureau. After maturely considering all the aspects of this hitherto distinct appropriation, the undersigned is unable to perceive any good reason for continuing as a separate item of appropriation, the funds for the sick and hurt of the marine corps. Indeed, he can find, in the whole view of the subject, not only no reason, good or plausible, why it should be distinct from the general naval appropriation, but every good and sufficient reason that might be fairly asked for, why it should not be perpetuated in separation.

They may be summed up in these. The naval surgeons in all instances, without exception, perform the duty of medical officers to the marine corps, from headquarters down to the smallest guard allotted to vessels of war. In many instances, notwithstanding the separations that have a common object and tendency, the necessities and appliances for the sick and hurt marines, are drained from the supplies obtained out of the appropriation for the naval service proper. The same kind of drain carries away a large portion of the supplies on board of all vessels having a marine guard. There remains, perhaps, only the Medical Department of the marines at headquarters in Washington, to be supplied out of the specific and distinct

appropriation for marines. There does not seem any appropriate cause, or plausible, much less valid reason, why this should continue, especially now that all requisitions and approvals, both for the articles and the payments for them, originate or are entertained and adjusted, in the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. If all requisitions then and the administrative surveillance of them preparatory to payment, exist in one office, there seems to be much propriety in suggesting that the funds should be a unit for the two objects.

Should this state of separate appropriation be not hereafter set aside, the result will inevitably be an interruption on the unity of action, expenditure, issues, and accountability, general and fiscal, which ought to be maintained inviolate in the concerns of this bureau. The primitive cause of the usage is not known, nor can its necessity be defended on any stable ground. For these reasons, it is now submitted to you whether the present would not be a fit opportunity so to modify the next solicited appropriation for the sick and hurt, as to embrace *under one general head* the navy proper and the marine corps.

In addition to this improvement in the essential base of the appropriation for the sick and hurt of the navy, the undersigned takes occasion to suggest another, less essential or important, but still an improvement, which, if adopted, would not be without its advantage. It relates simply to the phraseology of the appropriation, as it has heretofore been expressed.

The nomenclature of appropriations is entirely conventional; and it is presumed something of appositeness in the funds required to the objects they are destined to procure, is intended to exist. Under this idea it is suggested, that hereafter the funds given by Congress for the Medical Department, be styled "an appropriation for surgeons' necessities and appliances for the sick and hurt of the naval service, including the marine corps."

The phraseology of the appropriation, as heretofore used, is not in sufficient generalization. The details expressed, even, form but a small part of the whole of these multifarious necessities and appliances for the use of the sick and hurt; and hence, it seems strange to designate them by a virtual misnomer, and to suffer them, a mere part of a multitudinous whole, to give a nomenclature for the appropriation. The generalization of the subject seems more proper; and the title of the appropriation now proposed seems to embrace that generalization.

It will be perceived that the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars has been appended to the estimates for the purchase of surgical instruments. This requires some explanation. The instruments of the Medical Department of our service are confessedly in a state of imperfection. Nay, notwithstanding the large sums heretofore annually paid for them, many are good for nothing, or, at least, indifferently passable. This is owing to the incorrect manner of procuring them without any responsible judge of their workmanship and pattern. But a more important fact must not be withheld. Much money has annually been spent for instruments, both good and indifferent, for twenty or thirty years past, and yet where are they? Who can tell? Many are gone, very many. *That* the undersigned *can* tell. Whither, who can say? None having been responsible in the slightest degree for them—none seriously and officially charged with their custody, it would, indeed, be difficult to say whither gone. But it avails not to speculate. Gone they are, and they must, if the navy exists, be replaced. The reorganization you have effected will render it impossible for cause to put these unanswerable interrogatories in future. The defective and indifferent instruments still remaining ought to be sold. The proceeds of such sale, reverting to the

medical appropriation, from which they were purchased, will, when effected, lessen virtually the grant solicited for the purchase of these indispensable portions of surgeons' necessities and appliances. Under this candid revelation of the facts connected with these expensive outfits, it is not doubted that Congress will see occasion to make the grant.

One other grant is suggested as really needful, in the opinion of the undersigned; but as it is of novel character, he prefers asking you to leave the sum unnamed, requesting of Congress that whatever importance may be attached there to the request, it may meet with a corresponding degree of liberality in the sum appropriated. The object referred to in the suggestion for a grant of money to meet it, is intimately connected with the efficiency of medical officers. It is, that a small compact medical and surgical library shall be authorized to be purchased for each vessel of war, in proportion to her size and capacity for the accommodation of books in the surgeon's department, and also for the hospitals and sick quarters of navy yards. A due responsibility for these, well devised and rigidly enforced, would secure them always, for each successive cruise, subject only to the losses and destruction incident to the disasters of the sea. Extensive and costly libraries are furnished by Government to the commanders of all ships in the navy, often embracing a large proportion of mere general literature. Professional works, so important to medical officers, should not be denied.

All which is most respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

WILLIAM P. C. BARTON.

Hon. A. P. URSHUR,

Secretary of the Navy.

| HYDROGRAPHICAL OFFICE.   |  |               |      |      |           |           |           |                      |            |                 |
|--|--|---------------|------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| WEATHER JOURNAL FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1843. |  |               |      |      |           |           |           |                      |            |                 |
| Days.  | Barometer.                             | THERMOMETERS. |      |      |           |           | Weather.  | Portion cloudy.      | Winds.     | Force.          |
|  |  | Att.          | Sun. | Rad. | Shade.    | W. Bulb.  |           |                      |            |                 |
| Monday, 20th,<br>Do.   | 3 A. M.<br>29.784<br>3 P. M.<br>29.804 | 59°<br>63     | —    | —    | 35°<br>46 | 33°<br>44 | 20°<br>32 | Stratus.<br>Cirrus.  | 1.0<br>0.9 | Calm.<br>N. W.  |
| Tuesday, 21st,<br>Do.  | 3 A. M.<br>29.686<br>3 P. M.<br>29.616 | 60<br>55      | —    | —    | 34<br>32  | 32<br>22  | 21<br>21  | Cumulus.             | 1.0<br>0.8 | North.<br>West. |
| Wednesday, 22d,<br>Do.   | 3 A. M.<br>29.780<br>3 P. M.<br>29.538 | 58.5<br>62    | —    | —    | 35<br>39  | 33<br>33  | 18<br>19  | Cloudy.<br>Snowing.  | 1.0<br>1.0 | Calm.<br>N. E.  |
| Thursday, 23d,<br>Do.  | 3 A. M.<br>30.022<br>3 P. M.<br>30.014 | 58<br>56      | —    | —    | 25<br>39  | 22<br>34  | 23<br>20  | Cirrus.<br>Clear.    | 1.0<br>1.0 | N. W.<br>South. |
| Friday, 24th,<br>Do.   | 3 A. M.<br>29.958<br>3 P. M.<br>29.866 | 56.5<br>60.5  | —    | —    | 33<br>33  | 31<br>32  | 32<br>29  | Snowing.<br>Stratus. | 1.0<br>1.0 | Calm.<br>"      |
| Saturday, 25th,<br>Do.   | 3 A. M.<br>29.872<br>3 P. M.<br>29.830 | 60<br>57      | —    | —    | 30<br>43  | 30<br>39  | 27<br>—   | Cumulus.             | 1.0<br>0.8 | "<br>"          |
| Mean variation of the needle for the week.                       |  |               |      |      |           |           |           |                      |            |                 |
| Maximum, February 24, Friday at 10 A. M.                         |  |               |      |      |           |           |           |                      |            |                 |
| Minimum, do.   |  |               |      |      |           |           |           |                      |            |                 |
| 1° 30' 24" 23  |  |               |      |      |           |           |           |                      |            |                 |
| 1° 34' 00" 75.   |  |               |      |      |           |           |           |                      |            |                 |
| 1° 26' 13" 75.   |  |               |      |      |           |           |           |                      |            |                 |
| Rain, inches.  |  |               |      |      |           |           |           |                      |            |                 |
| { Lightfall snow at midnight.                                    |  |               |      |      |           |           |           |                      |            |                 |



**COMMUNICATED.****A REVIEW OF THE SEVERAL EUROPEAN  
ARMIES AT THE DECLARATION OF WAR  
IN 1792.**

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF GENERAL JOMINI,\*

BY H. W. H.

The conquerors of Leuthen, Rosbach, and Torgau, have proved, in the plains of Champagne and at Jena, that particular arms are of little account, and that courage alone is insufficient to secure success, or to constitute a good army.

The same general causes which so much influence the destinies of nations, also exercise control over their military organizations. Victories result in part from them, and they even give development to the talents of generals and the courage of soldiers. But, if we leave out of consideration the internal condition of empires, it cannot be denied that the principles of the pre-eminence or inferiority of every army are to be found in the nature of its organization, its spirit, and the character of its chiefs. The real strength of a State, therefore, consists in the character of its soldiers and officers; its means of recruiting; the organic institutions of the several corps; the talents and intelligence of its staff; the genius of the generals who command; and, finally, in the national spirit at the beginning of war.

It is only by a union of all these means that great ends can be accomplished; for although the skill of the commanding general is the best guaranty of success in the field, still, if the nation refuse the sacrifices necessary for his support, his battles will be gained without results, and he himself, like the Carthaginian hero, be condemned to see his army destroyed, after it has won the victory.

Moreover, the very best troops in the world, when conducted by a weak and incompetent general, can expect nothing better than defeat. For example, we see the same French armies eclipse the glory of the famous Spanish bands, and triumph over the troops of the celebrated William; then lose all their celebrity upon the fields of Ramillies, Turin, and Hochstet; recover their glory under Marshal Saxe; and again fall into contempt under his successors.

A good staff is, more than all, indispensable to the constitution of an army; for it must be regarded as the nursery where the commanding general can raise his principal supports—as a body of officers whose intelligence can aid his own. When harmony is wanting between the genius that commands and the talents of those who apply his conceptions, success cannot be sure; for the most skilful combinations are destroyed by faults in execution. Moreover, a good staff has the advantage of being more durable than the genius of any single man; it not only remedies many evils, but it may safely be affirmed that it con-

\* Critical and Military History of the Wars of the French Revolution.

stitutes for the army the best of all safeguards. The petty interests of coteries, narrow views, and a misplaced egotism, oppose this last position; nevertheless, every military man of reflection, and every enlightened statesman, will regard its truth as beyond all dispute; for a well-appointed staff is to an army what a skilful minister is to a monarchy; it seconds the views of the chief, even though it be in condition to direct all things of itself; it prevents the commission of faults, even though the commanding general be wanting in experience, by furnishing him good councils. How many mediocre men of both ancient and modern times have been rendered illustrious by achievements which were mainly due to their associates. Reynier was the chief cause of the victories of Pichegru, in 1794; and Dessoles, in like manner, contributed to the glory of Moreau. Is not General Toll associated with the successes of Kutusof? Diebitsch with those of Barclay and Witgenstein? Gneisenau and Muffling with those of Blucher? Numerous other instances might be cited in support of these assertions.

A well-established staff does not always result from a good system of education for the young aspirants; for a man may be a good mathematician and a fine scholar, without being a good warrior. The staff should always possess sufficient consideration and prerogative to be sought for by the officers of the several arms, and to draw together, in this way, men who are already known by their aptitude for war. Engineer and artillery officers will no longer oppose the staff, if they reflect that it will open to them a more extensive field for immediate distinction, and that it will eventually be made up exclusively of the officers of these two corps who may be placed at the disposal of the commanding general, and who are the most capable of directing the operations of war.

Finally, a brave and well organized army is still an incomplete machine, unless it have a good recruiting system. France felt the evil consequences of such a state of things under Louis XV and the allies, during the first wars of the revolution. By such a system we can procure the means of repairing losses without waiting for the tardy results of enlistments: it is this alone that constitutes an army national, fills its ranks with excellent soldiers, and enables the State to suit its efforts to the impending dangers.

In giving an account of the military establishments of Europe, we begin with

**FRANCE.**

From time immemorial Gaul has been inhabited by a brave people. Bold and enterprising under the two Brenni, obstinate and firm against the attacks of Cæsar, we see them figure gloriously as allies in all the wars of Rome. They passed through the middle ages with equal success; and if they yielded to the irruptions of the Franks, the amalgamation of the two nations only added to their energy.

The wars of Charlemagne and the crusades, the

incursions of Louis XII, Charles VIII, and Francis I, into Italy, and the war sustained by Louis XIV against all the rest of Europe, sufficiently prove what we may expect of a well appointed French army.

The fatal Seven Years' War, the intrigues of the court of Louis XV, and, still more, the infatuation which seemed to possess all minds after the disgraceful expedition of Hanover, instantly eclipsed whole centuries of glory, and made this army an object of ridicule.

After the peace of 1762 the French minister, ignorant of the true cause of his defeats, sought in the minutest details of discipline and instruction for what was merely the consequences of a bad choice of generals and a faulty plan of operations.

At that time the French had no idea of the dispositions which gain battles, nor of great strategic movements; and they forgot all the combinations necessary for the direction and use of masses, to amuse themselves with the most insignificant accessories. They imagined that the armies of Frederick owed their success to the manner of marching the oblique step, to the cut of their clothes, and a thousand other absurdities, which would be incredible, if the amusing discussions of that period were not still remembered, and known to have been encouraged by the minister.

In France there appeared a great number of treatises on tactics; they disputed about the most insignificant details of equipment and practice, and discussed the Prussian order and the French order, without having any definite idea of either. They formed camps of practice, to enable them to judge of the advantages of these different systems, believing that the sublime of the art was found in the mechanism of the instruction of platoons.

They were so completely infatuated with whatever resembled German tactics, that a Teutonic name was sufficient, at that time, to make any man's fortune in the army. A certain Captain Pirck, from the ranks of the Prussian army, passed for a rival of Frederick, merely because he had presented a memoir on the alignment of a battalion on its colors. They thought themselves exceedingly fortunate in persuading him to accept a regiment, and to instruct it according to his method.

The French Government thus sat the example of national disgrace; and, it must be confessed, the French people were only too willing followers. Foreigners, flattered by the superiority attributed to them, took good care to favor opinions so conducive to their own advantage; and all united in placing the French troops the very lowest on the scale: one additional retrograde step, and they would have been on a level with the soldiers of the Pope!

The war in America, however, restored a little emulation, which is the principal source of great military achievements. The expeditions of Grenada and St. Eustache, the campaigns of Lafayette, St. Simon, and Rochambeau, against the English in the United

States, which terminated with the surrender of Cornwallis, raised expectations that the grenadiers of Louis XVI would one day eclipse the soldiers of Condé. If the impulse given by this war to extravagant dogmas had consequences fatal to the monarchy, nevertheless it cannot be denied that it was of immense service in reviving the military spirit.

While a handful of brave men were distinguishing themselves on the banks of the Delaware and on the rocks of the Antilles, they still continued disputing about theories in France. The staff, the Government, and the *faiseurs*, were still divided in opinion upon systems; but while the chiefs were thus led away upon false paths, the assembled troops perfected themselves in discipline and instruction, and Guibert drew up a good system of marches and orders of battle.

This estimable author, always opposing the abuses and faults of instruction, caused researches to be made, which produced the ordinance of 1791. This work is as admirable for its clearness as for its precision. It was commenced about the same time with the Revolution. The French and Swiss guards made a trial of its movements, and proved their precision and advantage; but this important code was not published till the declaration of war. Although the army did not draw from it all the fruit which might have been expected, it nevertheless served to instruct the regiments of the line and the battalions of volunteers in the first principles of the step, of firing, and of manœuvres necessary in time of action; and it thereby contributed in rendering this mass of new levies fit for the operations of a campaign.

But the other parts of the military constitution did not receive, after the war in America, an improvement corresponding to the ordinance. Changes most loudly called for by public opinion were imprudently rejected; they even grievously complained of the rules of 1786, which was one of the principal causes of the dissatisfaction of the army—a dissatisfaction which explains its want of attachment to the Government.

In a monarchy where the nobility are devoted to the profession of arms, including all the heavy obligations this profession imposes, it is easy to understand why they should enjoy certain privileges, and why account should be taken of their services; but in these same preferences, would it not be unjust to entirely exclude the respectable class of soldiers of fortune, and more dangerous still to make the higher grades and the chief command, which should always be awarded to genius, experience, and devotion, the patrimony of some privileged coteries? An impartial government should never forget that Bonaparte, Moreau, Kléber, and many other most distinguished warriors, would have been condemned under Louis XVI to an eternal inactivity; and that in the long reign of Louis XV, there is not to be found, even in the French nobility, a single distinguished general; for Marshal Saxe, who rendered his age illustrious, was a foreigner. But the minister, Segur, did not



limit himself to simply regarding offices as the birth-right of the nobility exclusively; he established between the nobles themselves, new rules of distinction; and regiments were given to sons of families at court, while those of the provinces were compelled to languish in the lower grades. Such abuses were discouraging to the young men called out for the defence of the State; they dissatisfied nearly the whole army, and especially irritated those who, belonging to the same caste, considered themselves, on that account, entitled to equal favors.

A few plebeians, it is true, rose to the grade of officer, but it was only by force of time and patronage; still, a lieutenant of cavalry, after having overcome so many obstacles to attain this rank, might never reach the grade of captain. Even the poor gentleman could, only after long services, obtain the command of a company devolved by right to the son of a courtier hardly out of college.

The introduction of Prussian discipline, and of practices imagined by Count Saint Germain, established between most of the chiefs an emulation in haughtiness and brutality which destroyed all true sources of merit. Each one regarded his military character as great in proportion as he became trifling, meddlesome, and despised by his troops; whose discontent was increased to the highest pitch.

The corps of engineers and artillery, exempt by their organization from all the mutations which agitated the line, were not less divided upon the principles of the revolution. But the education necessarily received by the subaltern officers of these corps, made them ardent zealots of innovation, which opened to them a vast career.

During the session of the constituent assembly, the discord between officers and soldiers increased more and more. Discipline, which it was so important to re-establish, was relaxed, both by the negligence of the officers and by the disorganizing provocations of the Jacobins, whose clubs gradually gained control of the troops. The minister of war, Duportail, and the military committee of the assembly, thinking that insubordination in the line of the army would be the best protection for liberty against despotism, very erroneously encouraged the soldiers to frequent the clubs. But the most marked acts of insubordination were repressed by decrees, and sometimes punished with severity.

On the other hand, the soldier's condition was ameliorated; military legislation kept pace with the national spirit; a system of promotion was established, in which the claims of seniority and talent were wisely balanced.

The organization of corps experienced many changes under the different ministers, but the military establishment of France continued mainly the same. Its recruiting system had been voluntary for three centuries. This system, which the kings had substituted for feudal levies, by first hiring foreign regi-

ments and then enrolling the vagabonds from among their own citizens, had never been sufficient, and they were early forced to recur to militia. Francis I and Henry IV raised them under different denominations, but they were definitely instituted by Louvois, in 1688; the number raised by Louis XV amounted to one hundred and ten battalions, or 55,000 men. This service was regarded as one of the most vexatious charges, weighing heavily upon the *bourgeois*; it was likened to feudal servitude, and its abolition generally asked of the States General. About the close of 1789, an interesting controversy arose between the minister Latour-Dupin, and Dubois-Crancé, deputy of the assembly. The first proposed to increase the militia to 120,000 men, preserving nearly their former organization, and to fix the strength of the troops of the line at 150,000. Dubois-Crancé warmly opposed this project: he contended that it would be more advantageous to make the army wholly national, by suppressing the old militia, and replacing them by a kind of conscription from which no Frenchman should be exempt. This project, specious as it appears, offered a grave inconvenience, that of radically disorganizing the valuable skeleton or nucleus of an army, in which were 130,000 old soldiers then present under their colors.

It would have been easy to separate the valuable from the objectionable features of this project, and to prepare for the gradual amalgamation of the militia and regulars. But the assembly, seeing the vices of the old military institutions more distinctly than the urgency of adopting new ones, and being wholly disposed to court popularity by overthrowing what the people regarded as a burden, decreed, on the 16th of December, the abolition of the provincial troops, and thereby deprived France of 60,000 soldiers, without taking any measure to supply the deficiency.

For eighteen months, no attempt was made to repair this fault; which is the more remarkable, as Austria and Prussia had for half a century maintained large forces, and the wisest statesmen had represented to Louis XVI, at the beginning of his reign, the necessity of putting his military establishment on a footing with that of his neighbors. An exaggerated confidence in the citizen-soldiery which had been established throughout the kingdom after the 14th of July, 1789, was the principal cause of the astonishing security of the assembly. These three millions of national guards, though good supporters of their decrees, were nevertheless incapable of defending their own firesides, and much less of reinforcing the army beyond the frontiers. Indeed, these millions of men, on whom the girondins reckon presumptuously in lighting up the flames of war, would have been insufficient to secure France from invasion, if other circumstances had not concurred.

The most effective and simple means of giving the greatest development to the national power, in order to place it on an equality with other States, was to

establish a good recruiting system for the troops of the line, and afterwards to adopt, with some modification, a militia system, like Switzerland, to serve as auxiliaries on important occasions. This simple organization, which divides the whole military population of a nation into sedentary reserves and active battalions, previously organized and exercised in the first elements of tactics, and improving in efficiency as danger increases, suits particularly well the French character; and at that time it would have been the surest means of resisting the numerous enemies of France, who were then preparing for war. At first they could have drawn by requisition from this militia the number of men necessary to complete the army, and afterwards, during the war, they could have doubled the strength of the regiments, by joining to them one or two battalions of militia, independently of the supplement of men received by each company at the beginning of the campaign. In this way, with a peace establishment of 180,000 men, the regular army could have easily been increased to 250,000 by the first complement, and to 500,000 by the double requisition.

Towards the end of April, 1791, the reduction of the regiments which could no longer obtain a sufficient number of recruits to make up their complement, and the approach of war, caused the minister, Duportail, to ask for a levy of 100,000 men, to be organized into battalions, so as to supply the place of the provincial troops. This measure completed the ruin of the old regiments; for these, formerly obtaining their recruits for the class of young men whom the municipalities enrolled as auxiliaries, now failed to supply their ranks, and were on the point of disbanding. Moreover, it gave rise to jealousy, and substituted, for strongly organized corps, battalions entirely new, and on which no reliance could prudently be placed.

It would have been much more simple to have thrown these 100,000 auxiliaries into the line, by increasing each regiment of infantry to three battalions. Motives of intrigue and party spirit directed differently. The assembly, however, decreed the organization of 300,000 national guards, which were marched to the field as they were needed. This measure in itself was good, but its details were so faulty as to destroy its efficiency. The several battalions were merely enrolled; whereas, a certain number of them should have been collected together, armed, and made to serve, by turn, with the troops of the line for five or six months, or at least a sufficient length of time to make them acquainted with the primary details of police, discipline, and the school of the battalion.

By thus alternately accustoming all the young men to the duties of the soldier, and making them certain of being again called out, by the formation of new battalions, we should establish one of the most important principles of military organization, but one

entirely neglected by France. But let us return to our exposition of what really did exist.

At the declaration of war, the regiments of the line were in a pretty bad condition, on account of the spirit of disorganization which had been designedly introduced among them. One single measure, however, had preserved a little vigor. The appointment of officers from the third estate filled the army with ambitious and warlike youths, who were not long in gaining distinction; emulation, hopes of promotion, and love of country, gave for an instant a powerful impulse to discipline.

At the end of 1791, the infantry consisted of:

|  | Battalions. |
|--|-------------|
| 105 regiments, of two battalions each,   | 210         |
| 14 battalions of light infantry,   | 14          |
| 170 battalions of national guards, levied by decree of July 22d, 1791,   | 170         |
| These last were raised to 200 battalions, by the decree of May 5th, 1792, which also increased the old battalions from 226 men to 800. |             |
| Total,   | 394         |

The cavalry was composed of:

|  | Squadrons. |
|--|------------|
| 2 reg'ts of carbineers, of 4 squadrons each, | 8          |
| 24 " heavy cavalry, 3 " "                    | 72         |
| 18 " dragoons, 3 " "                         | 54         |
| 12 " chasseurs, 4 " "                        | 48         |
| 6 " hussars, 4 " "                           | 24         |
| Total,                                       | 206        |

These forces did not, in all, amount to more than 160,000 infantry, 35,000 cavalry, and 10,000 artillery; and yet 20,000 more men were wanting to make up the complement; but the invasion by the Prussians called many volunteers into the field, who increased the number beyond that required by the organization.

The infantry was composed of a fine class of men, but the character of the regiments varied according to the zeal and intelligence of the colonels; for there was no minister enlightened enough and no chief skilful enough to give the least impulse to the army. But after the universal changes in men and things occasioned by the general overthrow, all bodies were on pretty much the same level.

The general staff, which is essential for directing the operations of war, especially when the king does not himself lead his armies, had neither instruction nor experience; the corps of engineers and artillery were, on the contrary, a nursery of officers as distinguished for their intelligence as zeal. Thus, the most valuable instruction and the germs of the greatest talents were found in these two secondary arms, where they served only as accessories, instead of contributing to their own glory and that of the army, by a happy union with the staff, which would have opened to them a vast career of distinction.

No power in Europe possessed at this time such materials for the composition of an excellent staff, as



France; and it must be confessed, to the shame of the several administrations, that no power had a worse one. It is true that the pre-eminence of their courage and talents, and the dictatorial authority of the representatives of the people, brought forward the Klébers, the Desais, the Moreaus, the Saint-Cyrs, the Reyniers, the Jourdans, the Soult; but this was not effected by the military institutions of the country, and surely an army ought of itself to possess intelligent and capable officers, without trusting to fortuitous events to furnish them from the mass of the people.

The cavalry, which was inferior in bravery to no troops in Europe, was well mounted; but its regiments were too weak, its appointment defective, and its general officers were ignorant of the manner of manœuvring large masses upon variable grounds. These defects were corrected in subsequent wars, and experience in proving what good cavalry can achieve, has also demonstrated how much that of the French needed reforming.

The disorders which agitated France, and in which the army more or less participated, gave rise to fears that its dissolution would become complete on the first appearance of hostilities. Hardly had the war begun, when the disasters of the 10th of August, and the demagogic fury, destroyed eleven regiments of good Swiss infantry, just at the moment that France could not maintain her ground against the enemy. Emigration seemed about to give the finishing blow to this horrible state of affairs; for it deprived the army of the old officers in whom most confidence could be placed. But here the result was different from what might have been expected. This flight of princes, generals, and distinguished officers, instead of compromising the safety of the army and discouraging the soldiers, opened to all a vast field of ambition. Men who were incapable of commanding a regiment, now learned the art of directing whole armies; private citizens being called upon to defend the State, there sprung up from all classes of society men of genius, who, free from the trammels of habit and prejudice, devoted themselves to the study of a profession which could conduct them to the summit of honor and glory.

Demand for soldiers and the general enthusiasm made men devote themselves to military life; the national honor and independence were confided to citizens, who are always more interested in their preservation than mere mercenaries. Voluntary enlistments formerly filled the army with the idle and effeminate inhabitants of cities, but forced enrolments soon furnished it with robust countrymen already inured to fatigues and hardships. Thus, the whole constitution of the army was ameliorated, by the very events which seemed calculated to destroy it.

#### PRUSSIA.

At the death of Frederick the Great the Prussian army was considered the best in Europe. Proud of

the results of a contest without example in the annals of modern history, and of the superior genius of its King, it added to this energy of character a knowledge of the grand operations of war unapproached by the troops of any other Power. It also contained many officers of the highest order of talent.

This monarch had kept alive the emulation and recollection of his glorious battles, by frequent *simulacres* of war. It was in these grand manœuvres, where both parties were represented, that he accustomed his general officers to direct large masses over all kinds of ground, regulating their movements by the position at the moment, and by the nature of the ground, always following maxims established by science and experience. In these noble games of Mars, the astonished spectator saw enormous bodies of cavalry break into column at a given signal, change direction, mask their movements from the enemy, to appear again suddenly on one extremity of his line, and form there with the rapidity of lightning, without deploying, by a simple change of division; then, by an opposite change, the same cavalry was seen to break into column, execute by lines a change of front perpendicular to the rear, and form again on the right or left into battle without deploying, in imitation of the battle of Rosbach.

These manœuvres were intended for the instruction of the general officers rather than the troops. There they learned to calculate distances and intervals of time, matters often decisive in war; there they tried the systems of attack and defence deemed most advantageous for each particular arm, and the combination of grand movements for overwhelming a part of the enemy's line in masking his projects; finally, they were taught to choose positions, and place troops in them, so as to be sheltered from like enterprises of the enemy; in a word, Frederick caused his generals to make campaigns in time of profound peace.

Nor were his cares limited here. But it would exceed the limits of this article to cite all the means employed by this great King to perfect his army in the art of war. We have said that the officers were emulous in the study of their profession; in fact, there was established in Berlin a military society, into which the most intelligent officers were admitted. There was to be found in this establishment military books in all languages; the members of the society commented upon these books, discussed the several tranches of tactics, and prizes were distributed to those who discovered important principles, or solved questions of great interest. Such an institution might have formed great generals; but the nature of the Government itself, and especially the fixed order of promotion, left to languish in subaltern grades men who were perhaps most fitted for the chief command.

The Prussian infantry, although skilful, was far below that degree of perfection to which Seidlitz had

had brought the cavalry. This last arm then held the first rank in Europe.

The recruiting system had long remained unchanged; it was a mixture of requisition and voluntary enlistment. The country was divided into districts, in each of which a regiment was cantoned and recruited. But in order to lighten this charge upon the inhabitants, great numbers of the soldiers had leaves of absence, in time of peace, so as to engage in some industrial employment; only the smallest portion of the soldiers were kept with their colors.

The places of officers were reserved for the nobility; the philosophy of *Sans Souci* could not get over this prejudice; but, by prefixing a *Von* to the name, one was not forced to furnish proofs of descent; and I have known more than one Prussian officer who would have been much puzzled to give a single proof of family. Promotion based on seniority secured the triumph of mediocrity. The Prussian army has since changed this system. The King had the good sense to rectify his military institutions at the end of 1806, and in 1813 he had reason to congratulate himself upon the results of this reform.

| The infantry consisted of:  | Battalions. |
|---|-------------|
| 55 regiments, each composed of 1 battalion of grenadiers and 2 of musketeers, | 165         |
| 21 regiments of fusileers, or light infantry,                                 | 21          |
| Total, - - - - -  | 186         |

Each of these battalions was composed of 4 companies of 160 men, not including the officers.

| The cavalry consisted of:                                   | Squadrons. |
|---|------------|
| 12 regiments of cuirassiers, of 5 squadrons each, - - - - - | 60         |
| 1 regiment of body guards, of 3 squadrons,                  | 3          |
| 2 regiments of dragoons, of 10 squadrons each, - - - - -    | 20         |
| 10 regiments of dragoons, of 5 squadrons each, - - - - -    | 50         |
| 10 regiments of hussars, of 10 squadrons,                   | 100        |
| Total, - - - - -  | 233        |

A numerous and well organized artillery was rapidly improving; and the corps of engineers began to furnish men of acknowledged merit.

The infantry might be estimated at 120,000 men, the cavalry at 35,000, the artillery from 7 to 8,000, exclusive of some garrison battalions of old soldiers. This force had to be supported by only five or six millions of inhabitants; but at least one-third of the troops were enlisted in the Empire; for there was scarcely a city in Germany, or even Holstein, where Prussian recruiting officers were not notorious for their skill in decoying recruits.

Under the successor of Frederick, the Prussian army fell from its original splendor: Death had carried off its best officers. The old soldiers of Leuthen and Torgau were no more. It was soon shown that the best troops can do but little without a skilful general. [To be concluded in the next No.]

*From the United Service Magazine.*

**MASSEY'S PATENT SOUNDING MACHINE.**—This was patented in March, 1802, and consists of a sounding-weight, about eighteen inches long, with a register of two dials; these are moved by a revolving apparatus, composed of an air-tight metallic tube, with four metallic vanes spirally fixed. By this instrument soundings at sea are taken with more certainty and correctness than has been heretofore done: they may be obtained in practical depths without the trouble of heaving-to, for, as the rotator registers the descent of the lead, there is no occasion to respect the length of line paid out. In deep water, the rate of sailing should be reduced to five or six knots. With the commonest practice the sounding-machine will give the true vertical depth, under circumstances where the common lead cannot be used with even a hope of measuring with sufficient accuracy to found a reasonable conjecture of the true depth; besides which there is no worrying exposure of the men in bad weather. We have repeatedly gained ground with the greatest ease in forty or fifty fathoms, going seven knots and upwards; but our men were practically expert, and the machines were ever kept in crack order. There has been much "chaffing" that a depth of sixty or seventy fathoms will compress the revolving cylinder, notwithstanding the brass discs with which it is internally armed. Now we venture to assure our readers that this excellent instrument is perfectly able to withstand the density of depths to one hundred and fifty fathoms, and more; and the only two occasions in which we have seen a collapse take place, was under a pressure of three hundred fathoms.—*December.*

In the February number of the same publication, Capt. Basil Hall, of the Royal navy, says:

"Massey's Sounding Machine (as I can testify from having used it in every part of the world, in all weathers, and at all depths,) gives an exact measure of the depth of water, even though the ship's way be considerable, the night as dark as pitch, and the swell very high. With moderate care the results are not only infallible, but the trouble of using the instrument is not one whit greater, and very often much less, than that of heaving the lead in the ordinary way. In bad weather, when, be it remembered, we are generally most anxious about our soundings it takes a long time, and employs a great number of hands to heave the ship to, in order to get a good cast of the deep-sea lead. This, in fact, is so serious a consideration in a merchant vessel, that soundings which ought to be actually measured, are not infrequently taken for granted, to the imminent risk of the ship. But with Massey's machine two or three hands, with a proper length of line, not only accomplish the work, but insure its being done more expeditiously and much more correctly than if all hands were turned out of their hammocks and drenched to the skin, to obtain a result which could not be depended on.

"The late Capt. Hewett, as he himself told me, invariably used Massey's sounding machines in his inimitable surveys, after carefully testing their accuracy; and I have reason to believe that naval men generally, in every department of the service, now use them with entire confidence."

**CINCINNATI SOCIETY.**—At a special meeting of the Cincinnati Society of Maryland, it was,

*Resolved*, That the members of the Society deeply lament the untimely decease of their late associate and brother, BENEDICT WILLIAM HALL, son of Col. Josias Carvell Hall, of the fourth regiment Maryland Line, in the war of the Revolution, and as a manifestation of their high regard for his memory, they wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.



## WASHINGTON.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1843.

Captain ISAAC McKEEVER has been ordered to hold himself in readiness for the command of the *Independence*, as soon as relieved from his duties as a member of the Naval General Court Martial, now sitting in New York.

It is understood that the ship *Levant* and brig *Truxtun*, both at Norfolk, and nearly ready for sea, are destined for the Mediterranean.

The brig *Oregon*, Lieut. Com'g Powell, arrived at Tampa, on the 21st Jan., and was joined by the steamer *Poinsett*, Lt. Com'g McBlair, previously to the 11th Feb. They had commenced the survey.

In all parts of the country, on the reception of the news of the death of Commodore HULL, firing of minute guns, displaying flags of the shipping at half mast, and other appropriate marks of respect, have been shown to the memory of this naval hero.

The Boston Daily Advertiser says that a subscription will be opened there for the purpose of erecting a monument in Mount Auburn to his memory.

We have obtained from the "Spirit of Missions" full "Minutes of the Proceedings of Officers of the Army and Navy, and others interested in the religious condition of the service," in New York, and also the address of the Corresponding and Executive Committee; which we consider of sufficient importance to publish at large. The minutes will be found on a subsequent page; the address will be inserted next week.

We have been furnished with a "Review of the several European Armies in 1792," translated from the great scientific work of General JOMINI, a portion of which will be found on the preceding pages. This article will doubtless be read with interest by those of our readers who have not been able to procure the original work.

We hope there are many who are disposed to furnish us with such original communications, translations, reviews, extracts, and other materials, as will enable us to fill every number of the Chronicle and Repository with matter worthy of its readers.

COM. PORTER.—We regret to learn from the Baltimore Clipper that "Com. PORTER, is in very delicate health. An extract from a private letter received by his nephew, residing in Baltimore, from his sister, says, 'your uncle is at present in very feeble health, and we are apprehensive that he will not survive the present season.'"

Since the above, H. F. PORTER, Esq., in a communication published in the Philadelphia Chronicle, says: "By advices received by his family, as late as the 10th of December, the Commodore was in his usual health. He had an attack of fever and ague, of which he was relieved, and is riding out as usual. This information you may rely upon as correct, as it comes immediately from his family."

## SAILING OF FIRST AMERICAN FLEET.

The following extract of a letter, dated Newbern, North Carolina, February 9, 1776, contains an account of the sailing of the first American fleet. The writer was misinformed with regard to the Admiral's ship. It was the *Alfred*, not the *Columbus*.

"By a gentleman from Philadelphia, we have received the pleasing account of the actual sailing from that place of the first American fleet that ever swelled their sails on the Western ocean in defence of the rights and liberties of the people of these colonies, now suffering under the persecuting rod of the British Ministry, and their more than brutish tyrants in America. This fleet consists of five sail, fitted out from Philadelphia, which are to be joined at the Capes of Virginia by two ships more from Maryland, and is commanded by Admiral Hopkins, a most experienced and venerable sea-captain. The Admiral's ship is called the *Columbus*, after Christopher Columbus, the renowned discoverer of this Western world, and mounts thirty-six guns, twelve and nine-pounders, on two decks, forty swivels, and five hundred men. The second ship is called the *Cabot*, after Sebastian Cabot, who completed the discoveries of America made by Columbus, and mounts thirty-two guns. The others are smaller vessels, from twenty-four to fourteen guns. They sailed from Philadelphia amidst the acclamations of many thousands assembled on the joyful occasion, under the display of a *Union* flag, with thirteen stripes in the field, emblematical of the thirteen *United Colonies*; but, unhappily for us, the ice in the river Delaware, as yet, obstructs the passage down, but the time will now soon arrive when this fleet must come to action. Their destination is a secret, but generally supposed to be against the Ministerial Governors, those little petty tyrants that have lately spread fire and sword throughout these Southern Colonies. For the happy success of this little fleet three millions of people offer their most earnest supplications to Heaven."

The National Intelligencer of Monday says it is generally understood that Mr. SPENCER, now Secretary of War, is to succeed Mr. FORWARD, as Secretary of the Treasury; the latter having tendered his resignation. It is not stated who will probably be Secretary of War.

A writer over the signature "C. D. M.," in the United States Gazette, attributes the losses of the British in the late war, in a great measure, to "neglecting the improvement and discipline of their ships, under the belief of their boasted superiority, and the inferior characters of their opponents." In conclusion, he says:

"That our navy may steer clear of falling into the same errors is the object of this communication, and it will be well for our officers to keep in recollection that the glory they have acquired can only be secured by the most unwearied exertions in attending to their duties, and in the constant improvement in naval tactics. Their success must depend more on the complete efficiency of their ships, than in the belief of the inferior character of their enemies."

**SPEZZIA.**—We mentioned a few weeks since that the Secretary of the Navy had it in contemplation to remove the naval depot for the Mediterranean squadron from Mahon to Spezzia. The following description of the gulf of Spezzia and the adjacent country, is from the *New-York Union* of the 23d inst.:

Spezzia, the new naval depot in the Mediterranean, is peculiarly adapted for the purpose for which it has been selected; and having recently visited the place in the Ohio, when under the command of the late gallant and lamented Hull, we will give you a description of it, correcting errors which are now going the rounds of the papers, and make your readers familiar with a port that will now become important to us.

The gulf of Spezzia is situated on the upper part of the western coast of Italy, forty miles from Genoa, sixty from Leghorn, and about one hundred from Florence. The gulf is seven miles deep and five wide, with three deep indentations on the west, and two on the east side, with bold and deep water, where the largest ships of war may ride in perfect security, but those on the west side are alone used.

The bay on the west is formed by a high bluff of mountain, a spur of the Maritime Alps, its summit overlooking the gulf of Genoa, and on its very crown, a fortification was commenced by Napoleon, which bears the impress of his mighty genius, but remains unfinished, designed to protect the harbor below, and which he intended to convert into a naval depot. This bold promontory of rock extends into the sea, and formed the dividing line between the fertile, flowery plains of Italy and the rude and uncivilized barbarians of the north. The bay of Spezzia is accurately described by Livy, and his description will answer for the present day; this bold promontory was dedicated to Venus, and was called Venera, from which the modern name of Vendre is evidently a corruption. On this rock, close to the sea, Cæsar erected a temple and sacrificed to Minerva when he embarked for Gaul, (*vide Commentaries*;) and the site of this temple is now occupied by a chapel.

Vendre is a small fishing port, built about this chapel, and has a population of about four hundred; from this point the head of the bay, where the town of Spezzia stands, is six miles, over a most excellent road.

Spezzia has a population of 4,000, is a walled town, and is surrounded by very fertile valleys; but, being without trade or commerce, has but little wealth, and as at present there is no demand, the market is but poorly supplied; but when it becomes frequented by our ships, the best of provisions will soon find their way here in profusion.

The officers of the Sardinian Government and the residents of the town, vied with each other in their attention to us, and were much pleased with the prospect of our ships coming here, as the money left would be an object of much importance to the town.

On the eastern point of the bay stands Lerichie, the ancient Linex, with a population of 1,000, who carry on an active trade in smuggling; where, "the most honest and honorable of all nations," the British, from their free port of Gibraltar, have their

smuggling protected by British cruisers, in the same way as their opium was forced into China.

Lerichie is five miles from Serzana, a beautiful inland town with 8,000 inhabitants, and about ten miles from Carrara, whose marble quarries have been celebrated for ages, and where there is a fine college for artists, kept up at the expense of the Government.

This change to Spezzia will be of vast benefit to seamen and officers, and will take our ships from that odious depot of Mahon; and as a depot has been established within the straits, Spezzia, we are convinced, is the best place that could have been selected. F.

**EARTHQUAKES.**—Accounts, both by sea and land, still continue to be received of the earthquake on the 8th of February, and of shocks felt at other times.

The U. S. sloop *Decatur* felt the shock in latitude 20° 18' north, longitude 61° 50' west, *lasting within a fraction of three minutes, and accompanied by a noise resembling the rapid veering of a chain cable.* The nearest land was the island Anguilla, which was distant about one hundred and thirty miles.

We learn from the Savannah Republican, that it was also felt on board the British barque *Severn*. The following is an extract from her log-book. From the latitude given, it is supposed she must have been at the time off Antigua, one of the West India Islands:

"On Wednesday, February 8th, 1843, at 11 A. M., being in lat. 22° 30' N., and lon. 62° 24' W., the wind at N. E., with a light breeze, a violent tremulous motion was felt throughout the ship, *which lasted for the space of two minutes, or more.* The sensation experienced by those on board was such as is felt in steamers from the draught in the flues, when raising the steam. The noise was a dull and deafening sound, like that produced by the wheels of a number of carriages. The compasses in the binnacle were violently agitated, and there was a grating noise, as if the vessel was running ashore. The sea was perfectly smooth at the time, as far as the eye could reach, and not a cloud in the horizon. Supposed this phenomenon was occasioned by an earthquake."

The Baltimore American states, that "Captain Conklin, of the barque *Inca*, at this port from Rio de Janeiro, reports a severe shock on the same day, about the same time, in latitude 17° 30', longitude 60.° The nearest land was the island of Antigua, distant about one hundred miles. The shock was so violent that those who were below rushed to the deck, thinking the vessel had struck a rock."

Capt. Bell, a passenger in the Mohawk, from Para, informs us that on the 8th inst., Barbuda bearing W. S. W., eighty miles, an earthquake was felt about 11 A. M., in pleasant weather. There was a violent tremulous motion, similar to that felt in a train of steam-cars. The ship's company at first thought the vessel had struck the ground, and the deep sea-lead was thrown over, but no bottom found at the depth of thirty fathoms.—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

The New York Morning Post, of the 14th inst., says: "Captain Tecklenberg, of the Bremen ship *Emma*, arrived this morning, reports that on the 16th January, three distinct vibrations were felt on board the ship at 10 A. M. Each lasted about twenty seconds. The sensation was like that caused by an earthquake. Weather fine and sea calm. The vessel was in latitude 35° 44', longitude 34° 5'. Barometer 30° 10'.

The Nashville, St. Louis, and New Orleans papers, mention that a shock was felt at those places on the 16th inst.



*From the National Intelligencer.*

### THE HUNTER PROPELLERS.

The following letter from Mr. GRICE, United States Naval Constructor, distinguished (as his father was before him,) for his ability in his profession, affords the strongest possible evidence of the success and efficiency of Lieutenant HUNTER's improvement in steam navigation, as now reduced to practice in the construction of the steamship *Union*:

WASHINGTON CITY.

Under the necessity of visiting Washington on business, I was induced, through the politeness of Lieutenant HUNTER, to take passage in the *Union*. This vessel, you are aware, is propelled by submerged wheels, placed within and at the distance of about two feet from the bottom of the vessel. The novelty of this arrangement has caused, as well it might, much speculation. Having witnessed myself, and carefully observed, the result of the operation, I have no hesitation in saying that it has my full confidence, and has been fully tested.

This invention I consider of great importance to our country, and must reflect great credit upon the ingenuity and perseverance of Lieutenant HUNTER.

We ran the distance from Norfolk to Old Point, (fifteen miles,) in an hour and a half, without any advantage from wind or tide; and, as we stood down the bay, out of the usual track of steamboats, to clear the "Horse Shoe," she ran nine miles by log. Her movement was beautiful, and so unlike the ordinary motion of steamers, that we could scarcely believe we were steaming. Her motion was like that of a well broken horse that raises you not from the saddle. She really moved along like a thing of life, and almost as consciously graceful as a belle of the Avenue. If the immortal FULTON had seen her at this time, even his genius might have been puzzled at the cause of her locomotion, recognising no other feature of his own creation than a tall smoke-pipe.

We passed Smith's Point light-boat in ten hours from Norfolk: and, at night, the pilot, not deeming it prudent to run by the Kettle-bottoms and through the Narrows, we anchored. And, after encountering next day a great deal of ice, and a head wind and tide, we anchored at Alexandria, at 7 P. M.

It must be recollected that this vessel is fully armed and equipped, draws nearly eleven feet of water, offering of a course greater resistance to the fluid than the ordinary steam-packets fitted for passengers and speed alone.

The speed of British war-steamers is about eight knots; and, if I mistake not, Mr. FULTON did not guaranty the war-steamer built by him for harbor defence a greater speed than four miles. If then, the *Union* should not exceed ten miles, (her present speed,) it will be seen that a great achievement is already obtained, her machinery and propellers being below the water line, giving her a decided advantage over all war-steamers now afloat. But Lieutenant HUNTER is confident, and I have no doubt of it myself, that he can increase her velocity. She was also tested under canvass, and proved as efficient as any sailing vessel. As an act of justice to Lieutenant HUNTER, I make this communication,

And am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS GRICE,

United States Naval Constructor.

MESSRS. GALES & SEATON.

VOYAGE OF THE SULPHUR.—An interesting work is preparing for publication in England, under the authority of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. It is a Narrative of a Voyage round the World, performed in her Majesty's ship *Sulphur*, during the years 1837—1842; by Captain Sir Edward Belcher, commander of the expedition; in 2 vols. 8vo., with numerous illustrations on steel and wood.

The following sketch of the course of the voyage, which we obtain from an annunciation of the intended publication, will convey an idea of what will probably be the nature of the work:

"The *Sulphur* was commissioned in September, 1835, by Captain Beechey, and quitted England in the following December. He invalided at Valparaiso, and was succeeded by Acting Commander Kellett, who was again superseded by the author, who took the command at Panama, in February, 1837, having crossed the Isthmus of Darien for that purpose, and retained it till the conclusion of her protracted voyage. After some little delay in completing certain necessary operations, the *Sulphur* proceeded northerly, touching at Realejo and Libertad, in Central America, and reached San Blas in June, whence she sailed for the Sandwich islands, which she reached the following month.

"Port Etches, in King William's sound, in 60° 30' N., was their next destination. Point Riou and Port Mulgrave were chosen as base stations for determining the position of Mount St. Elias, and further settling the question of longitude between Cook and Vancouver. The ship then proceeded to Sitka, or New Archangel, in Norfolk sound, where the officers received very courteous treatment from Capt. Koupreanoff, the Russian governor. She next visited Friendly Cove, in Nootka sound, and thence sailed to San Francisco, when the examination of the river Sacramento, 156 miles from her anchorage, occupied them in open boats for thirty-one days. Thence she successively visited Monterey, San Blas, Acapulco, and Morro Ayuca, and then returned to Realejo, where the author, for the recovery of his health, undertook a land survey of the principal mountains overlooking his future ground in the Gulf of Papagayo, and fixed the principal features of the lake of Managua to its first fall into that of Nicaragua at Tepetitapa. After surveying the Gulf of Papagayo and Port Culebra, the *Sulphur* quitted Central America, touched at, and fixed the Cocos, and reached Callao in June, 1838, for the purpose of refit, and the completion of stores and provisions. Having examined the coast between Cerro Azul and Callao, (about sixty miles,) she left Callao in August, calling at Paita and Guayaquil, and returned to Panama in the following October.

"Here may be said to have ended her first cruise; but between October and March a survey was made of the Gulfs of Fonseca and Nicoya, Pueblo Nueva, and Bahia Honda, after which the ship moved northerly, repeating her cruise of 1837. She was detained at the Columbia river till September; Bobega, the Russian position near San Francisco, was then surveyed, and subsequently San Francisco, Monterey, Santa

Barbara, San Pedro, San Juan, San Diego, San Quentin, San Bartholomeo, the Gulf of Magdalena, and Cape San Lucas. The *Sulphur* then proceeded to San Blas and Mazatlan, where orders for a westerly return awaited her. Having shipped supplies for fourteen months from a transport which had been sent to meet her, she commenced her homeward voyage in January, 1840; the author landed on the islands of Socorro and Clarion, and secured their positions. She reached the Marquesas the same month, and after a short visit to Port Anna Maria, Nuhiviva, moved on to Bow island, where the operation was performed of boring for the volcanic foundation on which these coral islands are suspected to stand. She then visited Tahiti, Huabeine, Raratonga, Vavao, (Tonga Group,) Nukulau, (Feejees,) Tanna, (New Hebrides,) Port Carteret, (New Ireland,) Britannia island, New Guinea, coasting that island to Arimoa and as far as Jobie, where she remained to rate and survey, then to Amsterdam, Pigeon island, (Dampier's straits,) Bourro, and Amboina, moving thence to Macassar, Great Solombo, and Pulo Kumpal, off the Borneo coast, and reached Singapore in October of the same year.

"Orders here awaited her to proceed instantly to China, where she was detained, and took an active part in the warlike operations against the Chinese, till nearly the close of the year 1841, when she sailed for England. After leaving Singapore, touching at Malacca, Penang, Achen, (Sumatra,) Point de Galle, (Ceylon,) Seychelles, Madagascar, Cape of Good Hope, St. Helena, and Ascension, she at last returned to Spithead."

Our readers of the Exploring Expedition will probably recognise in the *Sulphur* a vessel which they more than once met with upon their cruise.

#### ARMY AND NAVY RELIGIOUS CONVENTION.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY, AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN THE RELIGIOUS CONDITION OF THE SERVICE.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH,  
City of New York, October 5, 1842.

This being the day and place appointed for the meeting of the Convention, it was organized by the appointment of Col. Bankhead, U. S. A., Chairman.

Communications from various quarters, expressing the views and wishes of their respective authors in relation to the objects of the Convention, were received and read.

Whereupon, in order that due consideration might be given to said communications, as well as for the purpose of carrying into effect the views of the Convention in relation to the intellectual, religious, and moral improvement of the military and naval service, the following resolutions were unanimously concurred in:

*Resolved*, 1st, That a standing committee of seven be appointed, to be styled "the Corresponding and Executive Committee of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Revenue Service," to whom reference may be made in all cases when the intellectual, moral, and religious interests of the service are sought to be pro-

moted; and that the said committee be, and they are hereby, charged with promoting the objects of this Convention generally, in such wise as to them shall seem most expedient; and furthermore, that they be empowered to fill any vacancies that may occur in their body, until the next meeting of this Convention.

*Resolved*, 2d, That said committee be required fully to report its proceedings to this Convention, at its next meeting.

*Resolved*, 3d, That when this Convention adjourn it adjourn to meet in St. Bartholomew's church, in the city of New York, on the last Wednesday in June, 1843.

*Resolved*, 4th, That the communications read to this Convention be committed to the Corresponding and Executive Committee.

A committee was then appointed by the chair to nominate suitable persons to compose the Corresponding and Executive Committee; whereupon, the following names were reported, and by the convention accepted, and declared to be the names of the "Corresponding and Executive Committee of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Revenue Service," viz:

Captain Mackenzie, U. S. A., New York.

Lieutenant Foot, U. S. N., Philadelphia.

Rev. N. Sayre Harris, New York.

Mr. Z. J. D. Kinsley, West Point.

Rev. T. S. Harris, Chaplain U. S. N., New York.

Lieutenant Harwood, U. S. N., Brooklyn.

Rev. M. P. Parks, Chaplain U. S. M. A.

Various resolutions were read expressive of the views of individual members as to what it was practicable for the Convention now to attempt in furtherance of the objects for which they had met. These were referred to the Corresponding and Executive Committee.

The Secretary of the Convention was directed to publish a suitable notice of the proceedings of the Convention.

It may not be amiss further to state, for the information of those interested in the objects of the Convention, that the Corresponding and Executive Committee held its first meeting in the evening after the adjournment of the Convention, but owing to the indisposition of one and the necessary absence of another member, a majority was not present. They will meet again, in the city of New York, on the 31st instant, when they will take the necessary steps for carrying into immediate effect the following objects, concurred in by the unanimous voice of the Convention:

1st. They will offer their services as a Committee of Correspondence to clergymen wishing a chaplaincy in either the army or navy, and to military or naval commanders in quest of suitable chaplains.

2d. They will seek to procure for publication a suitable manual of devotions, to be used on occasions of either private or public worship, by officers, in the absence of a chaplain or other officiating clergyman.

3d. They will prepare and publish a catalogue of tracts, sermons, and books, suitable for the libraries of military and naval stations.

4th. They will seek by correspondence to awaken attention to the importance of sustaining every right effort for the improvement of the intellectual, moral, and religious condition of the services, and for this purpose they will invite the attention of all who are interested in this noble cause.

The foregoing objects, the subscriber risks nothing in saying, will engage the early attention of the committee; and they are here indicated, that the public may be apprised of the leading objects which the convention, and the committee as the organ of the Convention, would seek to promote.

M. P. PARKS,  
Secretary of the Convention.



**Proceedings in Congress.****SENATE.**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

The question was taken on passing all the previous orders to take up the navy appropriation bill, and carried. The amendments pending being that of Mr. WILLIAMS in relation to the dry dock at Brooklyn, and the amendment of Mr. EVANS making the plan discretionary with the Secretary of the Navy.

These amendments led to a desultory and protracted discussion; when the question was taken on the amendment of Mr. EVANS, and decided in the negative: Yeas 10, nays 26.

The question was then taken on the amendment offered by Mr. GRAHAM to the amendment of Mr. WILLIAMS for a dry dock at Pensacola, and decided in the affirmative as follows: Yeas 22, nays 17.

Mr. EVANS proposed a further reduction of \$6,000 under the head of surgeons' necessities and appliances for the half calendar year, and \$4,000 for the fiscal year, making \$10,000; which was concurred in.

Mr. BENTON then moved to strike out the \$5,000 for the support of recaptured Africans on the coast of Africa; but, at request of Mr. EVANS, he consented to waive the matter until the bill from the House should come up making appropriations for carrying into effect the treaty of Washington; when the amendments to the bill were ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

A report was presented from the Committee on Commerce, in relation to House bill to provide for the erection of a marine hospital at Key West.

Also, from the same committee, with an amendment, House bill to amend the act, entitled "An act making appropriations for the erection of a marine hospital at or near Ocracoke, North Carolina."

On motion of Mr. HUNTINGTON, the amendment was read, and the bill considered in Committee of the Whole, and then was read a third time and passed.

The NAVY APPROPRIATION BILL was read a third time, and passed.

And the question being on the adoption of the title of the bill,

Mr. BENTON moved to recommit the bill, with instructions to strike out so much of the appropriation as is intended to support the squadron on the coast of Africa.

The Chair remarked that the bill was now passed, and the question was merely on the title, and it would, therefore, be necessary to reconsider the vote on the passage of the bill, before the motion to recommit could be considered.

The motion was then made to reconsider, and carried in the affirmative.

Mr. BAGBY moved to amend the amendment of Mr. BENTON, by inserting at the close of the instructions the words: "And also that part of the bill which relates to the support of the recaptured Africans on the coast of Africa," and on that question he demanded the yeas and nays.

The question having been put, it was decided in the negative.

The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr. BENTON, and decided in the negative.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

The Committee of Conference, appointed on the part of the Senate to meet that of the House, in relation to the amendment appointing ten cadets at large, made their report; which was, that the House recede, and the Senate insist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

Mr. EVANS, from the Committee on Finance, reported the following House bills, without amendment:

A bill making appropriations for certain fortifications of the United States for the half calendar year, beginning on the 1st of January and ending on the 30th day of June, 1843, and for the fiscal year beginning on the 1st day of July, 1843, and ending on the 30th day of June, 1844.

A bill making appropriations for the payment of navy pensions due on the 1st day of July, 1843, and the 1st day of January, 1844.

Mr. BAYARD, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported House bill to establish a naval depot and dock yard at Memphis, Tennessee, without amendment.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

Mr. MOREHEAD, from the committee on Retrenchment, reported House bill 548, for the reduction of pay and mileage of members of Congress, and of the pay of civil, military, and naval officers, with several amendments.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

The following bills were passed:

An act making appropriations for certain fortifications of the United States for the half calendar year beginning 1st January and ending 30th June, 1843; and for the fiscal year beginning 1st July, 1843, and ending 30th June, 1844.

An act making appropriations for the payment of navy pensions due 1st July, 1844, and on 1st January, 1844.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

The following bills were passed:

The bill making appropriations for certain fortifications of the United States for the half calendar year beginning on the 1st day of January and ending on the 30th day of June, 1843, and for the fiscal year beginning on the 1st day of July, 1843, and ending on the 30th day of June, 1844.

The bill authorizing an examination and survey of the harbor at Memphis, Tennessee.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

Mr. W. C. JOHNSON, from the select committee appointed on the subject, reported a bill to establish a National Foundry for the fabrication of cannon for the use of the army and navy of the United States.

The bill, having been read twice, was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

On motion of Mr. KENNEDY, of Maryland, the House took up the bill "to test the practicability of establishing a system of electro-magnetic telegraphs by the United States."

It was passed: Yeas 89, nays 83.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

The NAVY APPROPRIATION BILL, various amendments having been made to it by the Senate, was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

On motion of Mr. WILLIAMS, the committee to which the bill for dividing the United States into two military districts had been referred, were discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

The Committee of Conference, relative to the appointment of ten cadets at large, reported, recommending that the House recede.

The report was concurred in.

**NAVY.****Feb. ORDERS.**

- 22—Purser C. O. Handy, furlough renewed 12 mo's  
Prof. D. Bradford, frigate Brandywine, Norfolk.
- 23—Captain S. H. Stringham, detached from the  
command of the ship Independence.
- 24—The commander and other officers of the ship  
Decatur detached, with leave of absence for  
3 months.
- Lieut. J. R. Tucker, sloop St. Louis, Norfolk.  
Lieut. G. W. Harrison, rec. ship, New Orleans.  
Lieut. J. P. Sanford, leave of absence until  
September 1.
- Mid. W. A. Henry and Mid. F. Stenson, per-  
mission to attend naval school, Philadelphia.
- 25—Mid. C. P. Jones, frigate Brandywine, Norfolk.
- 27—Capt. B. Cooper, command of ship of the line  
Columbus, in the Mediterranean, vice Capt.  
W. A. Spencer, relieved at his own request.
- Comm'r H. N. Page, command of ship Levant.  
Lieut. W. May, order to schr. Wave revoked,  
and to ship Levant, Norfolk.  
Lieut. R. G. Robb, ship Levant, Norfolk.  
Lieut. H. Eld, Jr., schooner Wave, Norfolk.  
P. Mid. W. B. Beverley, receiving-ship, Norfolk,  
as acting master.  
P. Mid. T. B. Huger, act'g mas. steamer Union.

**RESIGNATIONS.**

- 23—Amos Colson, Boatswain.  
Henry Welton, Gunner.

**Naval Intelligence.**

**HOME SQUADRON.**—Schooner *Grampus* went to sea  
from Hampton Roads, Tuesday, February 22. The  
following is a list of her officers:

- Lieut. Comm'r Albert E. Downes.  
Lieuts. Geo. McCreery, William S. Swann, Hunn  
Gansevoort,  
Purser James S. Thatcher.  
P. Mid. I. S. K. You.  
Midshipmen A. J. Lewis, E. N. Beadel, George  
A. Minshall.  
Captain's Clerk, George L. McKenney.

**EAST INDIA SQUADRON.**—Frigate *Constellation*, Com.  
Kearny, and sloop-of-war *Boston*, Comm'r Long,  
sailed from Manilla, Sept. 13, for Nankin.

**Feb. ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.**

- 21—Lieut. J. Beaman, 4th infantry, Gadsby's.  
22—Lieut. S. C. Ridgely, 4th artillery, Georgetown.  
27—Col. H. Stanton, A. Q. M. G., J. Mason's, Jr.

**Death.**

At Steubenville, Jefferson county, Ohio, on the  
10th instant, of pleurisy, after a short illness, Mr.  
**JOHN SWARTWOUT**, (formerly of the U. S.  
navy,) son of the late General JOHN SWARTWOUT, of  
New York.

**PROPOSALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF  
TWO REVENUE CUTTERS.**

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Feb. 16, 1843.**

**SEALED PROPOSALS** are invited, and will be received, at  
this office, until the 17th day of April next, for building the  
hulls and fitting the spars of two vessels, to be employed as Re-  
venue Cutters, of the burden of about 150 tons; to be completely  
caulked, payed with pitch, and delivered in the water.

Each vessel to be built agreeably to a model and profile draft of  
spars, to be furnished upon entering into the contract, and of ma-  
terials corresponding to the following dimensions and specifica-  
tions, to wit:

- Length, between perpendiculars, eighty-eight feet.  
Breadth, moulded, twenty-two feet.  
Hold, eight feet six inches.  
Dead rise, twenty-four inches to half floor.  
Keel of white oak, to be sided ten inches.  
Dead wood, forward and aft, of live oak or locust, to be sided  
ten inches, to be bolted with copper three-quarters of an inch in  
diameter.

Stern post knee, of live oak, to be bolted with copper seven-

eighths of an inch in diameter, two in the body and two in the arm,  
and riveted under the keel and aft side of the stern-post.

Inner stern-post, of live oak or locust, to be sided ten inches.

Apron, of live oak or locust, to be sided one foot three inches.

Fore dead wood and apron bolts, to be of copper, seven-eighths  
of an inch in diameter, one foot above deep ballast mark.

Floor timbers, of live oak; futtocks and top timbers, of locust or  
red cedar, sided six inches, moulded at floor heads eight inches, at  
the plank sheer five and a half inches; to be completely framed,  
the frame bolts to be three-quarters of an inch in diameter; every  
floor timber to be bolted with one copper bolt, in diameter seven-  
eighths of an inch; the alternate floor timbers to be bolted, after  
the keelson is fitted, with copper bolts, of the same diameter, and  
riveted under the keel.

Keelson, of white oak, to be sided ten inches.

Main transom, of live oak or locust to be bolted with two iron  
bolts, in diameter seven-eighths of an inch; the remaining trans-  
oms to side seven inches, and to be bolted with copper seven-  
eighths of an inch in diameter.

Knight heads and hause pieces, of live oak or locust, to be sided  
nine inches.

Outside plank. The wales, four in number, to be in thickness  
three and a half inches, about seven inches wide, fairly and gra-  
dually diminishing to thickness of the bottom plank, two and a  
half inches, of white oak, each streak of the wales to be fastened  
to one frame comprising two timbers, with three iron spikes, and  
one iron bolt of five-eighths of an inch in diameter, driven through  
and riveted on the inside; and from thence to the keel, the bot-  
tom planks will be fastened to the frames, with six inch composi-  
tion spikes, and five-eighths copper bolts in the same manner.  
There will not be any treenails. Butt, and hood-ends bolts, to be  
three-quarters of an inch in diameter, of copper. The wales are  
to be plugged.

Plank-sheer of yellow pine, three and a half inches in thick-  
ness. The stanchions, to be of locust, to be placed to form seven  
ports on each side, with one between each port, and three abreast  
of the masts, on each side, to support the channels, and two on  
each side between the forward port and the bows. The bulwarks,  
from the stem to the stanchion of the forward port, to be of white  
oak, one and a half inches thick, thence to the stern of yellow  
pine, from one and a half to two inches in thickness, in narrow  
streaks. There are to be two stern ports; all the ports to have  
shutters.

The rails to be of oak or yellow pine.

Breast hooks, of live oak, two below the deck hook, fastened  
with copper bolts three-quarters of an inch in diameter. Clamps  
of white oak or yellow pine, in thickness at the upper edge three  
inches, lower edge two and a half inches, extending from stem to  
stern.

Beams, of yellow pine, to be sided nine inches, and moulded  
seven and a half inches; rounded two and a half inches; to be  
knead at each end, with one lodge, and one lap knee; to be sided  
five inches, excepting the mast beams, which are to have a dagger  
knee, in lieu of the lap knee, to be bolted with iron in diameter  
three-quarters of an inch.

The grub knees of the half poop to be bolted with iron three  
quarters of an inch in diameter, and the bulkheads secured from  
deck to deck with iron bolts seven-eighths of an inch in diameter.  
Deck plank, of yellow pine, three inches in thickness, not to  
exceed five inches wide amidships, to be fastened with iron spikes  
and plugged.

The bowsprit to be of yellow pine, the masts of yellow pine;  
other smaller spars of spruce, of the dimensions noted on the draft.  
The mast partners of live oak and knead.

The cat-heads and stern davits of oak.

Salt stops to be placed where required.

Cross-steps of white oak, bolted with iron, one inch in diameter,  
and properly secured on the keelson.

The ceiling plank, white oak to the floor-heads, thence to the  
clamps of yellow pine, two inches in thickness, fastened with iron.

Berth deck of ash or yellow pine, two inches in thickness, or-  
lop, or fixed with hatches, raised about fourteen inches above the  
running deck, extended from the fore to the mainmast. Cabin  
deck yellow pine one and three-quarters of an inch in thickness.

The arrangement of the decks and half poop (twenty-four feet  
in length, and sixteen inches high, from the main deck) as may  
be directed, with bits, scuttles, hatchways, skylights, cavils, cleats,  
&c., completed.

The shoe, ten inches in thickness amidships, tapering to the  
stem and stern post, of oak, fastened with copper bolts three-  
quarters of an inch in diameter, and with suitable composition  
spikes.

The materials used in the construction to be approved by such  
officer of the Revenue service as the Secretary of the Treasury  
may appoint.

The vessels to be completed within ninety days from the date of  
the contract, and the workmanship to be inspected previous to  
delivery by two competent judges, one to be chosen by each of the  
parties to the contract, who, in the event of their disagreement,  
are to choose a third, who are to determine whether the work has  
been executed in all respects conformably to the proposal and  
agreement.

The proposals to be endorsed "Proposals for building Revenue  
Cutters."

The Department reserves to itself the right of altering the  
model so as to increase or diminish the tonnage of one or both ves-  
sels, as may be deemed expedient. The proposals will therefore  
state what deduction will be made from the offers in case it may  
be determined to build one of 125 tons, and what increase in case  
the other should be 175.

**W. FORWARD,**

*Secretary of the Treasury.*

The *Madisonian*; *Republican* and *Sun*, Baltimore; *American  
Sentinel* and *Evening Mercury*, Philadelphia; *Union* and *Stand-  
ard*, New York, will copy this advertisement, and present the ac-  
count to the collectors of the respective ports for payment.